How To Keep Cool in a Hot Spot

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Course for Baby-Sitters Ends Tomorrow Night

Tomorrow night, more than 40 teen-agers in Colwood will sit down before 27 questions.

On the strength of their answers, they will successfully pass or fail a course that will benefit them for the rest of their lives.

Even if they don't rate an A or B, the "students" of the four-week course in baby-sitting at Colwood Fire Department will have learned how to cope with an emergency.

The course at the Colwood fire hall began on March 2 and a meeting was held one day a week to discuss fire, first aid and what to do in emergency situations. On Monday evening the students write an examination that will entitle them to a card from the fire department, their "graduation diploma."

The idea for a Colwood class was born in Fire Chief Dick Emery's head when he attended a course in Vancouver and heard Nanaimo fire officials speak of their course.

He enlisted the help of RCMP Sgt. Edward Dunk, Health Nurse June Fisher and Deputy Fire Chief Dick Proudfoot.

Average attendance has been about 42, Chief Emery said.

Keeping a cool head in a hot situation has been the primary aim of the course, each instructor outlining different aspects of home safety.

Points on dealing with Peeping Toms, prowlers and mysterious phone calls were dealt with by Sgt. Dunk as well as safety at home and on highways.

Miss Fisher illustrated the finer points such as changing diapers and caring for baby, a course that delighted the boys.

The chief showed the correct use of furnaces, boilers, fuses, etc., and what to do if an emergency along these lines developed while a baby sitter was in the house.

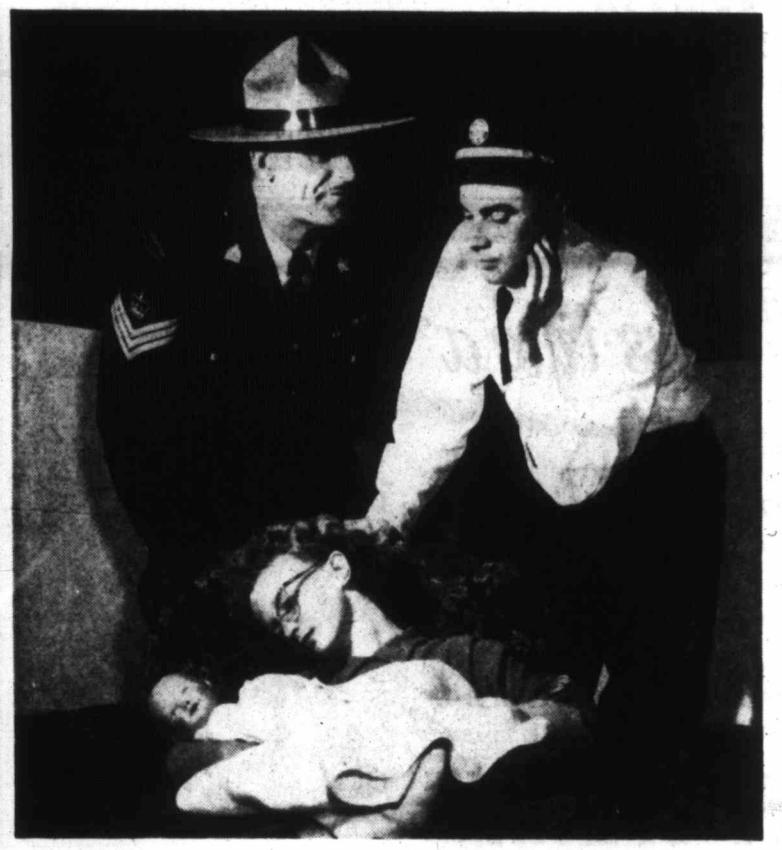
The course has condensed into four weeks as many household safety tips as possible to absorb.

Fire chief Emery said he was more than satisfied with the results of the baby-sitting classes and that the response all over has been astonishing.

On the strength of the completed course, the Colwood department is beginning another on April 6 at the fire hall and Belmont Park youngsters will begin a course as well on April 9 under Capt. J. Bryan of the Naval Fire Service, to be held Thursday evenings at the Belmont Park fire hall.

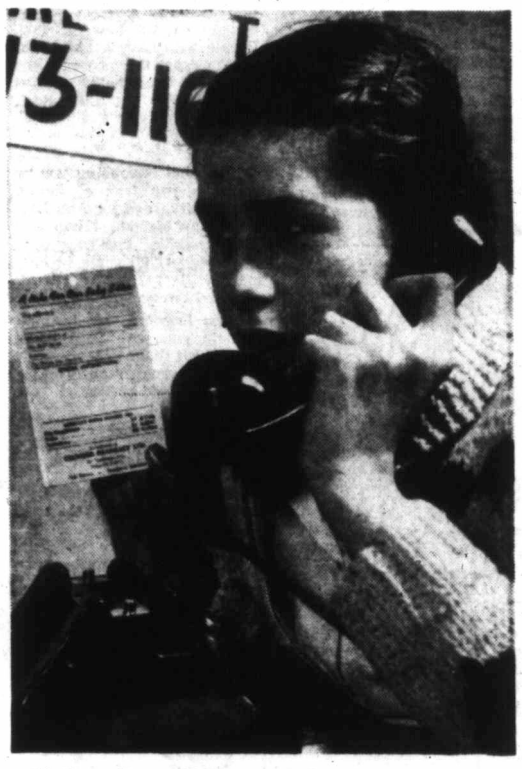
The gang gathers with their instructors for a last-minute briefing session before the final examinations Monday night. The four-week course is jammed with interesting tips on what to do and what not to do in case of emergencies arising while baby-sitting or in the course of an average day.

COLONIST PHOTOS BY JIM RYAN



Whoops! Baby-sitter Marilyn Maxie has been caught sleeping on the job by Fire Chief Emery and Sgt. Dunk. Marilyn's only pretending but in a similar circumstance involving a real baby, she has been taught in the course to keep alert, awake and on her toes until parents return home.

Pert and pretty fourteen-year-old Jo Tinker reminds the class of the baby-sitter's motto—and in huge lettering, the number of the central area Fire Department. All Saanich, Colwood, Langford and View Royal fire departments go through the same number — EV 3-1166 — a good one to memorize.



Kathryn Peatt, 11, is prepared for any emergency with her handy note pad for baby-sitters. Before parents leave for an evening out, they jot down where they are, the phone number and when they'll be back plus any special instructions about the care and feeding of a baby, for example. Note the important fire, police and ambulance listings as well.

Colwood Fire Chief Dick Emery shows four of his students the proper use of the CO2 fire extinguisher useful for fat fires on the stove and oil burners.

Watching the spray with mixed emotions at the loud noise are left to right, Lois Rayner, 11, Lynne Tinker, 11, Fris Albers, 11, and Wendy Ransfield, 14.

A flashlight may come in handy in ticklish situations such as blown light fuses demonstrates RCMP Sgt. Edward Dunk to Gail Young, left, and Linda Bryan, right, holding reminders for the baby-sitter to Keep Calm and Keep Awake.